U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

Marine Forces Pacific Religious Ministry Working Group

Camp H.M. Smith, HI
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Marine Forces Pacific
Religious Ministry Working Group

Background

- **Originally convened as a MFP Religious Ministry Conference**

- **Transformed to a three-day "working group venue" to:**
  - **Identify and address USMC concerns.**
  - **Execute deliberate planning efforts on current challenges.**
  - **Propose solutions and strategies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of RM support within the Marine Corps.**

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Focus of Effort

- **Working Group I – Suicide Prevention**
- **Working Group II – Sexual Assault Prevention**
- **Working Group III – Family/Marriage Support & Divorce Prevention**
- Working Group IV – Growing Chapels (Installation and Deployed)
- Working Group V – Combat Ministry Training
- Working Group VI – RP Issues

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Process

- **Working group topics development:**
  - **CMC's priority force preservation issues (suicide, sexual assault, marriage/divorce).**
  - **Chaplain/RP leaders' pressing ministry support issues.**
- **MEF, MSC and MCI chaplains:**
  - **Were provided with question-sets for each topic to solicit unit-level observations, experience and recommendations.**
  - **Senior leaders provided unit-level RMT response summaries to MFP WG.**
- **Senior chaplains and RPs mixed into WG teams to discuss topic question summaries. Each team tasked to:**
  - **List the most pertinent observations/concerns.**
  - **Make THREE actionable recommendations for improvement.**
- **USMC senior ministry leaders (Chaplain of USMC and MFP, MFC, MFR, MCCDC chaplains) received and prioritized findings/recommendations. MFP summarized for outbrief.**
- **Priority recommendations briefed to CGs for concurrence. Assigned for action among the MARFORs.**

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RM Leadership Participation

- Chaplain of the USMC
- [Code REL staff]
- MARFORRES
- MARSOC
- MCCDC
- MARFORCOM
  - II MEF
  - MCIE
  - CREDO Camp Lejeune
- MARFORPAC
  - I MEF
    - 1st MARDIV
    - 3rd MAW
    - 1st MLG
  - III MEF
    - 3rd MARDIV
    - 1st MAW
    - 3rd MLG
  - MCIW
    - MCAGCC
    - CREDO Camp Pendleton
  - MCBJ
    - CREDO Okinawa
  - MCBH

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Action Items

Suicide Prevention

- **Proactive Intervention Program for At-Risk Personnel**
  - *Venue: Support group-type environment led by unit chaplains.*
  - *Audience: At risk (MH) or troubled Marines and Sailors.*
  - *Target: Alcohol abuse, legal problems, broken relationships, managing emotions, military adjustment, combat readjustment, declining work performance.*

Sexual Assault Prevention

- **Enhanced Sexual Assault Response Training for RMTs**
  - *Venue: Formal training package and school house.*
  - *Audience: Unit RMTs.*
  - *Target: Expand SAPR training to clearly identify first responder roles, responsibilities and specific skills.*

Family/Marriage Support and Divorce prevention

- **Implement USMC Unit New Marriage Training**
  - Venue: *Chaplain-led unit marriage orientation training program.*
  - *Audience: Unit's newly married Marines and available spouses.*
  - *Target: Increase relationship skills of newly married Marines and reduce divorce.*

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2011

To be held at MCB Camp Pendleton in February 2011:

- Co-sponsored and convened by MARFORPAC and MARFORCOM chaplains.
- Includes II MEF MSCs to achieve full participation of all USMC religious ministry leadership.
- Involves working group deliberations and specific recommendation development for force preservation issues.

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